

THE PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN FEMALES OF *LEUCIACRIA OLIVEI* MÜLLER AND *PSEUDODIPSAS UNA* D'ABRERA (LEPIDOPTERA: PIERIDAE AND LYCAENIDAE)

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Abstract

Females of the Papuan *Leuciacria olivei* Müller and *Pseudodipsas una* D'Abrera are described and figured. The known distribution of *L. olivei* in New Ireland is extended.

Introduction

Leuciacria olivei Müller was described from five males taken in southern New Ireland at 2400 m (Müller 1999). Recently, a series of males and a single female were collected in south-central New Ireland, at approximately 1800 m.

Pseudodipsas una D'Abrera was known previously only by a single male from an unknown locality in New Ireland (Parsons 1998). It was described originally as a subspecies of *P. eone* (C. & R. Felder) (D'Abrera 1971).

Descriptions

***Leuciacria olivei* Müller**

Female (Figs 2, 3). Fore wing length 25 mm, antenna 13 mm. Head black with dense, deep grey hair tufts, whitish-grey ventrally; antenna black, with conspicuous flat club; labial palpus deep grey. Thorax black above, pinkish-cream beneath. Abdomen white, black dorsally, claspers grey. Fore wing concave between apex and vein M_2 , convex between tornus and vein M_2 , apex pointed; above cream-yellow, costa and termen broadly black, large black spot in postmedian area of cell; beneath cream with irregular black subterminal markings and large black spot at end of cell, remainder of cell yellow. Hind wing rather elongate, above pale yellow; beneath cream with yellow-green suffusion, costa bright yellow.

***Pseudodipsa una* D'Abrera**

Female (Figs 4, 5). Fore wing length 13 mm, antenna 9 mm. Head, thorax and abdomen black dorsally, white ventrally; antenna black with obscure white ribs; labial palpus grey. Fore wing costa straight, termen slightly convex; above dark brown, cilia dark brown; beneath light grey, dark brown in subterminal region, a pair of irregular but continuous triangle-shaped dark brown postmedian and subterminal bands, three broken dark brown bands in basal and median area. Hind wing with termen slightly pronounced between tornus and vein M_2 , above dark brown, large pale silver-blue subterminal area, with dark brown indistinct subterminal spots between vein M_3 and tornus, cilia dark brown; beneath pale grey with a series of regularly spaced brown bands, subterminal spots large and dark brown.



Figs 1-5. (1) *Leuciactria olivei* male, upperside. (2) *L. olivei* female, upperside. (3) *L. olivei* female, underside. (4) *Pseudodipsas una* female, upperside. (5) *P. una* female, underside. Scale bar = 1 cm.

Discussion

Leuciactria olivei is sexually dimorphic. The described female differs markedly from those of *L. acuta* Rothschild & Jordan in the more elongate hind wing, absence of markings on the hind wing, large fore wing cell spot and overall yellow suffusion of both wing surfaces. The holotype male of *L. olivei* has more black on the fore wing apex than other known specimens; the majority possess little or no black on the fore wing (Fig. 1). In addition to the types and other specimens taken in the Hans Meyer Range, southern New Ireland, several males were observed flying about 20 m above the ground in the Schleinitz Mountains, central New Ireland, at 1400 m, extending the known range approximately 200 km north-east.

Females of *P. una* closely resemble males but have broader, more rounded wings. Both sexes may be distinguished from other *Pseudodipsas* C. & R. Felder species by the absence of orange markings around the tornal spots on the hind wing underside. Females also have an extensive pale blue submarginal area on the hind wing upperside. The described female was collected in a forested gully in the Schleinitz Mountains at 1000 m, where it was flying with several other lycaenids, including *Erysichton albiplaga* Tite. At least two males of *P. una* were observed to fly rapidly and settle briefly on a ridge summit at 1100 m.

References

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